A METHOD OF MOVING HELPLESS PATIENTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS."

Sir,—May I suggest a very simple method of moving helpless patients?

A canvas stretcher (from which the poles are removable) is placed on the floor at the foot of the patient's bed and in a line with its long axis.

The patient is lifted on his under-sheet by four bearers, two on each side. Advancing by side steps, they lift him over the foot of the bed and place him on the stretcher.

Having arrived at the operating theatre, the stretcher is placed on the ground in a line with the long axis of the table. It is then grasped by four bearers (two on each side), lifted over the head of the table into position and the poles withdrawn.

At the end of the operation, the poles are re-introduced and the patient transferred on the stretcher to the ward. He is lifted on to the bed on the stretcher, by carrying him over the foot as before. The canvas is then removed by rolling the patient to one side, or it may be left in position for some time after removing the poles and traverses.

Failing a canvas theatre stretcher, the work can be done equally well by lifting the patient, by means of a sheet, on to or off the service stretcher or table.

The essence of the whole manoeuvre consists in always lifting him over the foot of the bed or table by two bearers placed on each side.

I am, Sir, &c.,

Sierra Leone,

F. J. W. Porter,

April 14th, 1909.

Major, R.A.M.C.